

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7828

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5086

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM TOON

E.O. 11652: NXGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IS US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH RABIN

REF: SECTO 187

1. I SAW RABIN IN JERUSALEM AT 1600 TODAY AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL, STRESSING THEY CAME FROM PRESIDENT. LIKE YESTERDAY, PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED ME ALONE AND TOOK NO REPEAT NO NOTES. HE MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS (KEYED TO LETTERED PARAS REFTEL) WHICH HE ASKED ME TO PASS YOU FOR THE PRESIDENT:

A. WHILE RABIN CONTINUES BELIEVE HIS BEST COURSE IS TO MAKE NO FORMAL REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT STATEMENTS SET FORTH IN LETTER CONTINUE REPRESENT U.S. VIEWS.

B. SINCE HE SAW ME YESTERDAY, HE HAD THOROUGH SEARCH MADE OF FONOFF FILES IN EFFORT ASCERTAIN WHY OUR INFORMATION ON WHAT WAS SAID TO EUROPEAN GOVTS AT VARIANCE. FONOFF PRODUCED CABLE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADORS WHICH HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN AND WHICH CONTAINED MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON INTERIM AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS THAN HE THOUGH HAD BEEN CONVEYED WHEN HE MADE ORAL STATEMENT TO ME LAST THURSDAY. INFORMATION, HOWEVER, DID NOT GO BEYOND WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN SURFACED AND, CONCERNING U.S. POSITION, CABLE MADE CLEAR AMBS WERE TO SAY ONLY THAT THERE WAS " AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OF CONCEPT."

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RABIN STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO MENTION OF U.S. SUPPORT AND NO

INDICATION OF U.S. COMMITMENT--ONLY UNDERSTANDING; NOR, IN CITING "U.S. UNDERSTANDING" WAS THERE ANY REFERENCE TO PROPOSALS--ONLY CONCEPT. CABLE ALSO INSTRUCTED AMBS TO INFORM GOVERNMENTS THAT ISRAELIS NEITHER SOUGHT NOR WANTED ANY INTERCESSION BY THEM WITH ANYBODY RE INTERIM AGREEMENT.

C. RE LINE, RABIN SAID HE PREFERRED PRECISE DELINEATION RATHER THAN LOOSE CHARACTERIZATION " IN OR OUT OF PASSES". LINE IN BOTH GIDI AND MITLA IS EAST OF THE PEAKS THAT CONTROL THE PASSES. RE GIDI, LINE WAS PLOTTED PRECISELY ON U.S. AERIAL PHOTO SENT FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO. LINE FOR MITLA WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY PLOTTED IF AERIAL PHOTO OF MITLA HAD BEEN SENT BY WASHINGTON. (RABIN POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS AT HIS REQUEST THAT DINITZ ASKED FOR AERIAL PHOTOS OF PASSES TO PIN-POINT EXACT LOCATION OF ISRAELI LINE.) RABIN STRESSED THAT WHETHER LINE IS " IN OR OUT" OF PASSES DEPENDS ON BEHOLDER. SINCE LINE IS EAST OF CONTROLLING PEAKS, IT CAN LOGICALLY BE HELD TO BE " OUT OF PASSES". BUT SINCE LINE IS STILL ON EASTERN SLOPES, SOME MIGHT MAINTAIN LINE IS " IN THE PASSES". FOR THIS REASON, RABIN FELT IT IS PREFERABLE TALK IN TERMS OF PRECISE LOCATION RATHER THAN LOOSE CHARACTERIZATION.

D. RABIN EXPECTS DINITZ REPORT OF MEETING WITH YOU BY NOON TOMORROW, LOCAL TIME. SINCE MEXICAN PRESIDENT HERE FROM TOMORROW UNTIL SUNDAY, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT REACH DECISION WITHIN NEGOTIATIONG TEAM, BRIEF AND GET CABINET SUPPORT MUCH BEFORE SUNDAY, BUT RABIN WILL DO HIS BEST TO EXPEDITE PROCESS. RABIN ASKED THAT YOU ASSURED HE AVAILABLE FOR BALANCE OF MONTH; HE TOLD KREISKY OVER WEEKEND (PRESUMABLY IN STOCKHOLM) INTERIM AGREEMENT MUST BE GIVEN PRIORITY OVER ALL OTHER COMMITMENTS AND AUSTRIAN VISIT AUG 24-27 MIGHT HAVE TO BE CANCELLED. RABIN PROMISED KREISKY FIRM REPLY THIS WEEKEND. TOON

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